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ACTION AF-01

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FM AMEMBASSY KAMPALA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1143

C O N F I D E N T I A L KAMPALA 005898

FOR AF ASSISTANT SECRETARY GEORGE MOOSE ONLY  
FROM AMBASSADOR CARSON

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR  
TAGS: PREL, RW, UG  
SUBJECT: RWANDA: NEED TO MOVE RELIEF SUPPLIES INTO  
RWANDA THROUGH KIGALI

1. CONFIDENTIAL - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY APPARENT FROM HERE  
THAT IN ORDER TO MOVE GREAT VOLUMES OF RELIEF  
SUPPLIES INTO EASTERN ZAIRE AND WESTERN RWANDA, A  
DECISION WILL HAVE TO BE MADE SHORTLY ON WHETHER WE  
SHOULD USE KIGALI AIRPORT AS ANOTHER HUB FOR OUR  
OPERATIONS. I STRONGLY FAVOR THIS APPROACH EVEN  
THOUGH THERE MIGHT BE SOME IMPACT ON THE POLITICAL  
ISSUE OF RECOGNITION.

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3. FYI: COL. DANIEL LAYTON, POLITICAL MILITARY  
ADVISOR IN PM, IS MAKING A SIMILAR RECOMMENDATION TO  
FRANCES COOK AND TOM MCNAMARA IN PM. BILL GRAVELINK,  
WHO IS HERE REPRESENTING OFDA'S INTEREST, WILL BE  
ADVOCATING A SIMILAR POSITION TO USAID DIRECTOR BRIAN  
ATWOOD. END FYI.

4. I BELIEVE THE NEED TO USE KIGALI WILL BECOME  
APPARENT TO THE PRESS AND GENERAL PUBLIC VERY

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
REVIEW AUTHORITY: ARCHIE M BOLSTER  
DATE/CASE ID: 23 JAN 2004 200301564

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QUICKLY, AND OUR RELIEF EFFORT STANDS TO BE  
CRITICIZED IF WE DO NOT USE THE FACILITIES THAT ARE  
AVAILABLE TO US IN CENTRAL RWANDA.

5. THE RATIONALE FOR USING KIGALI IS STRAIGHTFORWARD:

-- THE AIRFIELD IN GOMA IS SATURATED WITH TRAFFIC AND  
CANNOT HANDLE MUCH ADDITIONAL VOLUME. MORE NIGHT  
FLIGHTS MAY BE POSSIBLE, BUT THERE IS ONLY SO MUCH  
THAT CAN BE PUSHED INTO A LIMITED SPACE;

-- THE AIRPORT AT BUKAVU HAS A DIRT STRIP THAT WILL  
NOT HANDLE SIGNIFICANT VOLUME OR GREAT LOADS; (LAYTON  
AND GRAVELINK ARE AT BUKAVU TODAY.)

-- ENTEBBE IS OPERATING OKAY. BUT AS THE BUILDUP  
CONTINUES, IT WILL SOON BECOME OVERWHELMED. THERE IS  
LITTLE STORAGE SPACE HERE TO KEEP LARGE VOLUMES OF  
RELIEF SUPPLIES; AND,

-- AIR DROPS, AS DEMONSTRATED BY THE EVENTS OF JULY  
24, WILL NOT BE THROUGHLY SATISFACTORY IN DELIVERING  
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THE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF ASSISTANCE THAT WE WANT TO PUT  
INTO EASTERN ZAIRE.

6. USING KIGALI OPENS DOORS TO HELP MORE PEOPLE.  
THE AIR STRIP IS IN EXCELLENT CONDITION AND THE  
AIRPORT IS UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF GENERAL  
DALLAIRE. THERE IS WAREHOUSE STORAGE SPACE. GOODS  
GOING INTO KIGALI CAN BE MOVED OUT IN ALL DIRECTIONS,  
INCLUDING GOMA AND GISENYI. KIGALI CAN BE SUPPORTED  
FROM ENTEBBE SIMILAR TO WHAT WE ARE DOING TO SUPPORT  
RELIEF OPERATIONS IN GOMA. WE ARE ASSURED OF MOVING  
FOOD AND MEDICINE TO WESTERN RWANDA AND EASTERN ZAIRE  
BY AIR AND ROAD.

7. I WILL TRY TO CALL YOU EARLY MONDAY MORNING.  
HOWEVER, I WANT TO GIVE YOU A HEADS UP ON THIS ISSUE  
IN CASE YOU HAVE TO DEAL WITH IT AT THE CRACK OF  
DAWN. AS SOON AS MY POL OFFICER CAN GET SOME TIME,  
WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER CABLE OUT ON THIS ISSUE.  
CARSON

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